

# Media Release

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## Barwon Water Biosolids project wins Premier's Environmental Protection sustainability award

A joint project between Barwon Water, Plenary Environment (Barwon) and the Water Infrastructure Group won the Environmental Protection Award in the 2014 Premier's Sustainability Awards for development of a Thermal Drying Facility which has drastically reduced sewage treatment emissions.

The Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project provides a sustainable, long term management solution for the beneficial use of 100 per cent of the biosolids produced at Barwon Water's seven water reclamation plants. Previously, wet biosolids (85 per cent water) were transported to be stored and air dried. The Thermal Drying Facility provided a 30 per cent decrease in Barwon Water's sewage treatment emissions during 2012/13.

Sustainability Victoria CEO, Stan Krpan, congratulated the Barwon Water Biosolids project team for their innovative work, saying they were an excellent example of leadership in sustainability.

"The Thermal Drying Facility provides a model for Australia for sustainable biosolids management to address the environmental issues associated with biosolids stockpiling, disposal and reuse," he said.

The small footprint, fully enclosed facility is the first of its kind in Australia to achieve T1 Treatment Grade pelletised biosolids and is the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

Overall winner for the night, recipient of the Premier's Recognition Award, was the Port Phillip EcoCentre project 'Life Support for the Bay' in which community members collected and analysed small pollutants which affect the health of Port Phillip Bay. Earthco Projects Pty Ltd won the Premier's Regional Recognition Award for collaborative industry and council development of their road stabilising agent, PolyCom Stabilising Aid.

Winners of the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2014 are:

- **Cleaner Yarra and Bay - Port Phillip EcoCentre** - 'Life Support for the Bay'
- **Community - Knox City Council, Alpine Shire, City of Melbourne, City of Port Philip, Yarra Ranges Council** - 'Seedlings: Sustainability in the Early Years'
- **Education Award - St Louis de Montfort's Primary School Aspendale** - 'St Louis de Montfort's Leaders in Sustainable Education'
- **Environmental Protection Award - Barwon Water, Plenary Environment (Barwon), Water Infrastructure Group** - 'The Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project'
- **Infrastructure and Buildings Award - Regional Rail Link Authority** - 'Regional Rail Link Project'
- **Innovative Products or Services Award - Fieldtech Solutions Pty Ltd** - Fieldtech Solutions
- **Large Business Award - Toyota Motor Corporation Australia - Sustainability** - Toyota's 'Next Big Step'
- **Small and Medium Enterprises Award - Interface Constructions Pty Ltd** - Interface Constructions Pty Ltd
- **Tourism Award - Zoos Victoria** - Healesville Sanctuary
- **Premier's Regional Recognition Award - Earthco Projects Pty Ltd** - PolyCom Stabilising Aid - Collaboration with local government to achieve sustainable roads'
- **Premier's Recognition Award - Port Phillip EcoCentre** - 'Life Support for the Bay'.

*For photographs from the Awards dinner and more information on the winners, visit [www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainabilityawards.vic.gov.au). Media contact - Cath Newell on 0423 587 478.*